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(54) Title: **METHODS AND MEANS FOR REGULATING GENE EXPRESSION**

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to the field of biochemistry, molecular biology and food production. More in particular, the invention relates to methods and means for regulating gene expression. Even more in particular, the invention relates to CodY target sequences. Herein we show that CodY represses its target genes by binding to specific DNA sequences upstream of the respective genes. A conserved target site was identified by analyzing upstream sequences of derepressed genes in a delta codY *L. lactis* MG1363 derivative, as identified in a DNA micro-array study. The present application furthermore discloses CodY target sequences from other gram-positive bacteria, like *B. subtilis* and *Streptococcus*. Hence, the invention provides CodY target sequences that may be used in different applications to repress or derepress gene expression.

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